

of that prime rarity of the high ground, *Standfussiana wiskotti* Standfuss, one *S. nyctimera* Boisd., four *Euxoa culminicola* Staud. and a lot of *Elophos unicoloraria* Staud. We also took only the second *L. taraxaci* to come our way.

The spot south of Auxerre was out staging post on the way home, and this time it was less productive in spite of a distant thunderstorm which made conditions oppressive and humid. *C. sponosa* was common at sugar, and the light produced *Harpyia (Hoplitis) milhauseri* Fabr., a couple of *Ptilodontella cucullina* D. & S., *Mythimna albipuncta* D. & S., three *craccae* and some small specimens of *Apeira syringaria* L. in a total of 74 species.

On the Continent, there are several species complexes which can only be sorted out by examination of the genitalia. We kept about 20 *caesia* taken in various parts of the Alps, hoping to find among them *H. clara* Staud. Alas, they all proved to be *caesia*. Likewise, all the *algae* were indeed that species and not *C. ochsi* Boursin or *C. pallida* Bethune-Baker. On the other hand, it was gratifying to find that two *Chersotis* taken at Col de Vence were the recently discovered *C. grammiptera* Rambur, which is very similar to *C. elegans*. Some *Peribatodes* bred from *Juniperus oxycedrus* L. at la Voulte are, I think, merely *rhomboidaria* D. & S. and not *P. perversaria* Boisd., but pale specimens taken at Valdeblore are *P. abstersaria* Boisd.

Several species were bred from eggs or larvae obtained in April, and were imported under licence No. PHF 30/126 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to whom I express my thanks for their kind assistance. The heat of the summer was not conducive to oviposition by captured females, and I failed with the ones I tried. Some larvae of *Hyles euphorbiae* L. were brought back and excited the interest of H. M. Customs and Excise; three moths emerged during the autumn, but the remaining pupae appear to be overwintering.

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A RARE ABERRATION OF THE HEART AND DART: AGROTIS EXCLAMATIONIS L. — During the summer of 1984, large numbers of this moth were attracted here to my moth trap, and on 21st July I captured the rare ab. *obsoleta* Tutt. The moth looked like a wainscot and was determined by my friend Ian Lorimer. See Goater, *Proc. Brit. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.* 2(2): 64, plt. X1, fig. 9 (11 in error). — R. T. LOWE, 61 Erskine Hill, London NW11 6E.

HADENA COMPTA D. & S. (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) CONTINUING SPREAD IN 1984. — On 24th. July 1984, I took a male *Hadena compta* D. & S. from my garden MV trap in Winchester VC 11. This is the first record for the vice-county, although it was recorded further eastwards in North Hampshire (VC 12) in 1983 by Mr. A. H. Dobson (*Ent. Gaz.* 35 : 252). — Col. D. H. STERLING, "Tangmere", 2 Hampton Lane, Winchester, Hants SO22 5LF.